

We will be there soon. That's when we become Greece. That's when we become a country that's unsalvageable. And we're gonna be there very soon. We're gonna be there very soon.

So, just to sum up, I would do various things very quickly. I would repeal and replace the big lie, Obamacare.

I would build a great wall, and nobody builds walls better than me, believe me, and I'll build them very inexpensively, I will build a great, great wall on our southern border. And I will have Mexico pay for that wall.

Mark my words.

Nobody would be tougher on ISIS than Donald Trump. Nobody.

I will find — within our military, I will find the General Patton or I will find General MacArthur, I will find the right guy. I will find the guy that's going to take that military and make it really work. Nobody, nobody will be pushing us around.

I will stop Iran from getting nuclear weapons. And we won't be using a man like Secretary Kerry that has absolutely no concept of negotiation, who's making a horrible and laughable deal, who's just being tapped along as they make weapons right now, and then goes into a bicycle race at 72 years old, and falls and breaks his leg. I won't be doing that. And I promise I will never be in a bicycle race. That I can tell you.

I will immediately terminate President Obama's illegal executive order on immigration, immediately.

Fully support and back up the Second Amendment.

Now, it's very interesting. Today I heard it. Through stupidity, in a very, very hard core prison, interestingly named Clinton, two vicious murderers, two vicious people escaped, and nobody knows where they are. And a woman was on television this morning, and she said, "You know, Mr. Trump," and she was telling other people, and I actually called her, and she said, "You know, Mr. Trump, I always was against guns. I didn't want guns. And now since this happened"— it's up in the prison area— "my husband and I are finally in agreement, because he wanted the guns. We now have a gun on every table. We're ready to start shooting."

I said, "Very interesting."

So protect the Second Amendment.

End— end Common Core. Common Core should— it is a disaster. Bush is totally in favor of Common Core. I don't see how he can possibly get the nomination. He's weak on immigration. He's in favor of Common Core. How the hell can you vote for this guy? You just can't do it. We have to end education has to be local.

Rebuild the country's infrastructure.

Nobody can do that like me. Believe me. It will be done on time, on budget, way below cost, way below what anyone ever thought.

I look at the roads being built all over the country, and I say I can build those things for one-third. What they do is unbelievable, how bad.

You know, we're building on Pennsylvania Avenue, the Old Post Office, we're converting it into one of the world's great hotels. It's gonna be the best hotel in Washington, D.C. We got it from the General Services Administration in Washington. The Obama administration. We got it. It was the most highly sought after— or one of them, but I think the most highly sought after project in the history of General Services. We got it. People were shocked, Trump got it.

Well, I got it for two reasons. Number one, we're really good. Number two, we had a really good plan. And I'll add in the third, we had a great financial statement. Because the General Services, who are terrific people, by the way, and talented people, they wanted to do a great job. And they wanted to make sure it got built.

So we have to rebuild our infrastructure, our bridges, our roadways, our airports. You come into La Guardia Airport, it's like we're in a third world country. You look at the patches and the 40-year-old floor. They throw down asphalt, and they throw.

You look at these airports, we are like a third world country. And I come in from China and I come in from Qatar and I come in from different places, and they have the most incredible airports in the world. You come to back to this country and you have LAX, disaster. You have all of these disastrous airports. We have to rebuild our infrastructure.

Save Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security without cuts. Have to do it.

Get rid of the fraud. Get rid of the waste and abuse, but save it. People have been paying it for years. And now many of these candidates want to cut it. You save it by making the United States, by making us rich again, by taking back all of the money that's being lost.

Renegotiate our foreign trade deals.

Reduce our \$18 trillion in debt, because, believe me, we're in a bubble. We have artificially low interest rates. We have a stock market that, frankly, has been good to me, but I still hate to see what's happening. We have a stock market that is so bloated.

Be careful of a bubble because what you've seen in the past might be small potatoes compared to what happens. So be very, very careful.

And strengthen our military and take care of our vets. So, so important.

Sadly, the American dream is dead.

But if I get elected president I will bring it back bigger and better and stronger than ever before, and we will make America great again.

Thank you. Thank you very much.

Appendix B: MSNBC, 9/08/15

<https://www.msnbc.com/watch/rep-hurd-talks-trumps-idea-to-build-a-wall>



9.08.15 Hurd MSNBC Interview

Note: Video available as mp4 upon request

Appendix C: New York Times, 7/30/16

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/30/us/politics/donald-trump-criticizes-muslim-family-of-slain-u-s-soldier-drawing-ire.html>

Donald Trump Criticizes Muslim Family of Slain U.S. Soldier, Drawing Ire

By MAGGIE HABERMAN and RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr.
JULY 30, 2016

Donald J. Trump belittled the parents of a slain Muslim soldier who had strongly denounced Mr. Trump during the Democratic National Convention, saying that the soldier's father had delivered the entire speech because his mother was not "allowed" to speak.

Mr. Trump's comments, in an interview with George Stephanopoulos of ABC News that will air on Sunday, drew quick and widespread condemnation and amplified calls for Republican leaders to distance themselves from their presidential nominee. With his implication that the soldier's mother had not spoken because of female subservience expected in some traditional strains of Islam, his comments also inflamed his hostilities with American Muslims.

Khizr Khan, the soldier's father, lashed out at Mr. Trump in an interview on Saturday, saying his wife had not spoken at the convention because it was too painful for her to talk about her son's death.

Mr. Trump, he said, "is devoid of feeling the pain of a mother who has sacrificed her son."

Gov. John Kasich of Ohio, a rival of Mr. Trump's in the Republican primaries who has refused to endorse him, castigated him on Twitter. "There's only one way to talk about Gold Star parents: with honor and respect," he wrote, using the term for surviving family members of those who died in war.

And Hillary Clinton, Mr. Trump's Democratic opponent, said he "was not a normal presidential candidate."

"Someone who attacks everybody has something missing," she told a crowd at a campaign stop in Youngstown, Ohio. "I don't know what it is. I'm not going to get into that."

Mr. Khan's speech at the convention in Philadelphia was one of the most powerful given there. It was effectively the Democratic response to comments Mr. Trump has made implying many American Muslims have terrorist sympathies or stay silent when they know ones who do. Mr. Trump has called to ban Muslim immigration as a way to combat terrorism.

At the convention, Mr. Khan spoke about how his 27-year-old son, Humayun Khan, an Army captain, died in a car bombing in 2004 in Iraq as he tried to save other troops.

He criticized Mr. Trump, saying he “consistently smears the character of Muslims,” and pointedly challenged what sacrifices Mr. Trump had made. Holding a pocket-size copy of the Constitution, he asked if Mr. Trump had read it. Mr. Khan’s wife stood silently by his side.

Mr. Trump told Mr. Stephanopoulos that Mr. Khan seemed like a “nice guy” and that he wished him “the best of luck.” But, he added, “If you look at his wife, she was standing there, she had nothing to say, she probably — maybe she wasn’t allowed to have anything to say, you tell me.”

Mr. Trump also told Maureen Dowd of The New York Times on Friday night, “I’d like to hear his wife say something.”

In a statement late Saturday, Mr. Trump called Captain Khan a “hero,” and reiterated his belief that the United States should bar Muslims from entering the country.

“While I feel deeply for the loss of his son,” he added, “Mr. Khan, who has never met me, has no right to stand in front of millions of people and claim I have never read the Constitution, (which is false) and say many other inaccurate things.”

Even given Mr. Trump’s reputation for retaliating when attacked, his remarks about the Khans were startling. They called to mind one of his earliest counterpunches of the campaign, when he responded to criticism from Senator John McCain of Arizona, once a prisoner of war in Vietnam, by saying at a forum in Iowa, “I like people that weren’t captured.”

But Mr. McCain has a long history in the public eye. The Khans, before their convention appearance, had none.

“Trump is totally void of any decency because he is unaware of how to talk to a Gold Star family and how to speak to a Gold Star mother,” Mr. Khan said on Saturday.

Ms. Khan did speak on Friday to MSNBC’s Lawrence O’Donnell, saying she “cannot even come in the room where his pictures are.”

When she saw her son’s photograph on the screen behind her on the stage in Philadelphia, she said, “I couldn’t take it.”

“I controlled myself at that time,” she said, while choking back tears. “It is very hard.”

In his interview with The Times, Mr. Khan said his wife had helped him craft his convention speech, and told him to remove certain attacks he had wanted to make against Mr. Trump.

But on Saturday, he unmuzzled himself. “Unlike Donald Trump’s wife, I didn’t plagiarize my speech,” Mr. Khan said, referring to how several lines from a Michelle Obama speech found their way into Melania Trump’s address at the Republican National Convention.

“I also wanted to talk about how he’s had three wives, and yet he talks about others’ ethics and their religion,” Mr. Khan said. “She said, ‘Don’t go to his level. We are paying tribute to our son.’”

Mr. Trump’s comments provoked another avalanche of criticism on social media, and again put Republican leaders in a difficult position, facing new demands that they repudiate their presidential nominee.

Even before Mr. Trump’s remarks to ABC News, Mr. Khan had asked that Senator Mitch McConnell, the majority leader, and Paul D. Ryan, the House speaker, denounce Mr. Trump.

On Saturday, neither directly addressed Mr. Trump’s new comments. Don Stewart, a spokesman for Mr. McConnell, referred to Mr. McConnell’s response last year that a ban on Muslims entering the United States would be unacceptable.

AshLee Strong, a spokeswoman for Mr. Ryan, delivered a similar response: “The speaker has made clear many times that he rejects this idea, and himself has talked about how Muslim Americans have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country.”

In the same ABC News interview, when Mr. Stephanopoulos said that Mr. Khan had pointed out that his family would not have been allowed into the United States under Mr. Trump’s proposed ban, the candidate replied, “He doesn’t know that.”

And when asked what he would say to the grieving father, Mr. Trump replied, “I’d say, ‘We’ve had a lot of problems with radical Islamic terrorism.’”

Mr. Stephanopoulos also noted that Mr. Khan said that Mr. Trump had “sacrificed nothing,” and had lost no one.

“I think I’ve made a lot of sacrifices,” Mr. Trump replied. “I’ve worked very, very hard. I’ve created thousands and thousands of jobs.”

Some of the fiercest condemnations on Saturday came from Republicans who have argued — unsuccessfully to date — that Mr. Trump is unfit to be president.

Tim Miller, a former communications director for Jeb Bush’s presidential campaign, called Mr. Trump’s comments “inhuman.”

“Memo to Trump supporters,” Peter Wehner, a speechwriter for President George W. Bush, wrote on Twitter. “He’s a man of sadistic cruelty. With him there’s no bottom. Now go ahead & defend him.”

Reihan Salam, a conservative writer for National Review and a frequent Trump critic, said that Mr. Trump had an opportunity to declare remorse for the Khans while still holding to his own views as a candidate.

“He might have asked why Humayun Khan had died in the first place — because of a war that many, if not most, Americans regard as a tragic blunder,” he said.

“There was really no benefit for Trump in suggesting that Ghazala Khan had been muzzled,” he added, “because she could easily come out and say that she had been too grief-stricken to speak, which she did.”

Ibrahim Hooper, the spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said on Saturday, “It’s really despicable that anyone, let alone a presidential candidate, would choose to dishonor the service of an American who gave his life for this nation.”

Ms. Khan, he said, “was obviously there to support her husband, who was offering what many people believe was the most impactful speech of the entire convention.”

As is often the case, Mr. Trump, who has had no campaign events this weekend, managed with a few words to overshadow Mrs. Clinton, who was making several stops in Ohio and Pennsylvania with her running mate, Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia.

In the ABC News interview, Mr. Trump also hedged over whether he would participate in the three scheduled debates with Mrs. Clinton. He insinuated that she had worked to schedule two during football games so viewership would be lower, and said that the National Football League had sent him a letter complaining about the timing.

The debates were scheduled in September of last year by the bipartisan Commission on Presidential Debates. And while Joe Lockhart, a spokesman for the National Football League, said the league was not thrilled about the scheduling, “we did not send a letter to Trump.”

Appendix D: United States Army Website, accessed 8/19/16

<http://www.army.mil/goldstar/>

The term Gold Star family is a modern reference that comes from the Service Flag. These flags/banners were first flown by families during World War I. The flag included a blue star for every immediate family member serving in the armed forces of the United States, during any period of war or hostilities in which the armed forces of the United States were engaged. If that loved one died, the blue star was replaced by a gold star. This allowed members of the community to know the price that the family had paid in the cause of freedom.

The United States began observing Gold Star Mother's Day on the last Sunday of September, in 1936. The Gold Star Wives was formed before the end of World War II. The Gold Star Lapel Button was established in August 1947.

Today, the nation recognizes the sacrifice that all Gold Star Family members make when a father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, or other loved one dies in service to the nation. Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day is the last Sunday of September and Gold Star Spouses Day is April 5. The strength of our nation is our Army. The strength of our Army is our Soldiers. The strength of our Soldiers is our families. The Army recognizes that no one has given more for the nation than the families of the fallen.

Appendix E: HR 2029, Vote #193, 4/30/15

<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2015/roll193.html>

FINAL VOTE RESULTS FOR ROLL CALL 193

(Republicans in roman; Democrats in *italic*; Independents underlined)

H R 2029 YEA-AND-NAY 30-Apr-2015 7:14 PM

QUESTION: On Passage

BILL TITLE: Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes

	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	PRES	<u>NV</u>
REPUBLICAN	236	4		3
DEMOCRATIC	19	159		10
INDEPENDENT				
TOTALS	255	163		13

---- YEAS 255 ----

Abraham	Granger	Perry
Aderholt	Graves (GA)	<i>Peters</i>
<i>Aguilar</i>	Graves (LA)	<i>Peterson</i>
Allen	Graves (MO)	Pittenger
Amash	Griffith	Pitts
Amodei	Grothman	Poe (TX)
<i>Ashford</i>	Guinta	Poliquin
Babin	Guthrie	Pompeo
Barletta	Hanna	Posey
Barr	Hardy	Price, Tom
Barton	Harper	Ratcliffe
Benishek	Harris	Reed
<i>Bera</i>	Hartzler	Reichert
Bilirakis	Heck (NV)	Renacci
Bishop (MI)	Hensarling	Ribble
Bishop (UT)	Hice, Jody B.	Rice (SC)
Black	<i>Higgins</i>	Rigell
Blackburn	Hill	Roby

Blum	Holding	Roe (TN)
Bost	Hudson	Rogers (AL)
Boustany	Huelskamp	Rogers (KY)
Brady (TX)	Huizenga (MI)	Rohrabacher
Brat	Hultgren	Rokita
Bridenstine	Hunter	Rooney (FL)
Brooks (AL)	Hurd (TX)	Ros-Lehtinen
Brooks (IN)	Hurt (VA)	Roskam
<i>Brownley (CA)</i>	Issa	Ross
Buchanan	Jenkins (KS)	Rothfus
Bucshon	Jenkins (WV)	Rouzer
Burgess	Johnson (OH)	Royce
<i>Bustos</i>	Johnson, Sam	<i>Ruiz</i>
Byrne	Jolly	Russell
Calvert	Jordan	Ryan (WI)
Carter (GA)	Joyce	Salmon
Carter (TX)	Katko	<i>Sanchez, Loretta</i>
<i>Cartwright</i>	Kelly (PA)	Sanford
Chabot	King (IA)	Scalise
Chaffetz	King (NY)	Schweikert
Clawson (FL)	Kinzinger (IL)	Scott, Austin
Coffman	Kline	Sensenbrenner
Cole	Knight	Sessions
Collins (GA)	<i>Kuster</i>	Shimkus
Collins (NY)	Labrador	Shuster
Comstock	LaMalfa	Simpson
Conaway	Lamborn	<i>Sinema</i>
Cook	Lance	Smith (MO)
<i>Costa</i>	Latta	Smith (NE)
Costello (PA)	LoBiondo	Smith (NJ)
Cramer	Long	Smith (TX)
Crawford	Loudermilk	Stefanik
Crenshaw	Love	Stewart
<i>Cuellar</i>	Lucas	Stivers
Culberson	Luetkemeyer	Stutzman
Curbelo (FL)	MacArthur	<i>Takai</i>
Davis, Rodney	<i>Maloney, Sean</i>	Thompson (PA)
Dent	Marchant	Thornberry
DeSantis	Marino	Tiberi
DesJarlais	Massie	Tipton
Diaz-Balart	McCarthy	Trott
Dold	McCaul	Turner
Duffy	McClintock	Upton
Duncan (SC)	McHenry	Valadao
Duncan (TN)	McKinley	Walberg
Ellmers (NC)	McMorris Rodgers	Walden

Emmer (MN)	McSally	Walker
Farenthold	Meadows	Walorski
Fincher	Meehan	Walters, Mimi
Fitzpatrick	Messer	Weber (TX)
Fleischmann	Mica	Webster (FL)
Fleming	Miller (FL)	Wenstrup
Flores	Miller (MI)	Westerman
Forbes	Moolenaar	Westmoreland
Fortenberry	Mooney (WV)	Whitfield
Foxx	Mullin	Williams
Franks (AZ)	Murphy (PA)	Wilson (SC)
Frelinghuysen	Neugebauer	Wittman
<i>Gabbard</i>	Newhouse	Womack
Garrett	Noem	Woodall
Gibbs	Nugent	Yoder
Gibson	Nunes	Yoho
Gohmert	Olson	Young (AK)
Goodlatte	Palazzo	Young (IA)
Gosar	Palmer	Young (IN)
Gowdy	Paulsen	Zeldin
<i>Graham</i>	Pearce	Zinke

---- NAYS 163 ---

<i>Adams</i>	<i>Fudge</i>	Mulvaney
<i>Bass</i>	<i>Gallego</i>	<i>Murphy (FL)</i>
<i>Beatty</i>	<i>Garamendi</i>	<i>Nadler</i>
<i>Becerra</i>	<i>Grayson</i>	<i>Napolitano</i>
<i>Beyer</i>	<i>Green, Al</i>	<i>Nolan</i>
<i>Bishop (GA)</i>	<i>Green, Gene</i>	<i>Norcross</i>
<i>Blumenauer</i>	<i>Grijalva</i>	<i>O'Rourke</i>
<i>Bonamici</i>	<i>Gutiérrez</i>	<i>Pallone</i>
<i>Boyle, Brendan F.</i>	<i>Hahn</i>	<i>Pascrell</i>
<i>Brady (PA)</i>	<i>Hastings</i>	<i>Pelosi</i>
<i>Brown (FL)</i>	<i>Heck (WA)</i>	<i>Perlmutter</i>
<i>Butterfield</i>	<i>Himes</i>	<i>Pingree</i>
<i>Capps</i>	<i>Honda</i>	<i>Pocan</i>
<i>Capuano</i>	<i>Hoyer</i>	<i>Polis</i>
<i>Cárdenas</i>	<i>Huffman</i>	<i>Price (NC)</i>
<i>Carney</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Quigley</i>
<i>Carson (IN)</i>	<i>Jackson Lee</i>	<i>Rangel</i>
<i>Castor (FL)</i>	<i>Jeffries</i>	<i>Rice (NY)</i>
<i>Castro (TX)</i>	<i>Johnson (GA)</i>	<i>Richmond</i>

<i>Chu, Judy</i>	<i>Johnson, E. B.</i>	<i>Roybal-Allard</i>
<i>Cicilline</i>	<i>Jones</i>	<i>Ruppersberger</i>
<i>Clark (MA)</i>	<i>Kaptur</i>	<i>Rush</i>
<i>Clarke (NY)</i>	<i>Keating</i>	<i>Ryan (OH)</i>
<i>Clay</i>	<i>Kelly (IL)</i>	<i>Sánchez, Linda T.</i>
<i>Cleaver</i>	<i>Kennedy</i>	<i>Sarbanes</i>
<i>Clyburn</i>	<i>Kildee</i>	<i>Schakowsky</i>
<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Kilmer</i>	<i>Schiff</i>
<i>Connolly</i>	<i>Kind</i>	<i>Schrader</i>
<i>Conyers</i>	<i>Kirkpatrick</i>	<i>Scott (VA)</i>
<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Langevin</i>	<i>Scott, David</i>
<i>Courtney</i>	<i>Larsen (WA)</i>	<i>Serrano</i>
<i>Crowley</i>	<i>Larson (CT)</i>	<i>Sewell (AL)</i>
<i>Cummings</i>	<i>Lawrence</i>	<i>Sherman</i>
<i>Davis (CA)</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Sires</i>
<i>Davis, Danny</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Speier</i>
<i>DeGette</i>	<i>Lieu, Ted</i>	<i>Swalwell (CA)</i>
<i>Delaney</i>	<i>Lipinski</i>	<i>Takano</i>
<i>DeLauro</i>	<i>Loebsack</i>	<i>Thompson (CA)</i>
<i>DelBene</i>	<i>Lofgren</i>	<i>Titus</i>
<i>Denham</i>	<i>Lowenthal</i>	<i>Tonko</i>
<i>DeSaulnier</i>	<i>Lowey</i>	<i>Torres</i>
<i>Deutch</i>	<i>Lujan Grisham (NM)</i>	<i>Tsongas</i>
<i>Dingell</i>	<i>Luján, Ben Ray (NM)</i>	<i>Van Hollen</i>
<i>Doggett</i>	<i>Lummis</i>	<i>Vargas</i>
<i>Doyle, Michael F.</i>	<i>Lynch</i>	<i>Veasey</i>
<i>Duckworth</i>	<i>Maloney, Carolyn</i>	<i>Vela</i>
<i>Edwards</i>	<i>Matsui</i>	<i>Velázquez</i>
<i>Ellison</i>	<i>McCollum</i>	<i>Visclosky</i>
<i>Engel</i>	<i>McDermott</i>	<i>Walz</i>
<i>Eshoo</i>	<i>McGovern</i>	<i>Waters, Maxine</i>
<i>Esty</i>	<i>McNerney</i>	<i>Watson Coleman</i>
<i>Farr</i>	<i>Meeks</i>	<i>Welch</i>
<i>Fattah</i>	<i>Meng</i>	<i>Wilson (FL)</i>
<i>Foster</i>	<i>Moore</i>	
<i>Frankel (FL)</i>	<i>Moulton</i>	

--- NOT VOTING 13 ---

<i>Buck</i>	<i>Neal</i>	<i>Wagner</i>
<i>DeFazio</i>	<i>Payne</i>	<i>Wasserman Schultz</i>
<i>Herrera Beutler</i>	<i>Slaughter</i>	<i>Yarmuth</i>

Hinojosa
Lewis

Smith (WA)
Thompson (MS)

Appendix F: The Hill, 4/29/15

<http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits/congress/244463-house-democrats-line-up-against-veterans-bill-04-29-15>

House Dems bolster Obama veto threat

By Mike Lillis - 04/29/15 12:44 PM EDT

Bolstering a White House veto threat, House Democrats on Wednesday began lining up against a Republican bill funding the Veterans Affairs Department next year.

"I won't support it," Rep. Joseph Crowley (N.Y.), vice chairman of the Democratic Caucus, said Wednesday, "and I don't believe our Caucus will support that, either."

Addressing the Democrats at a closed-door caucus meeting in the Capitol Wednesday, VA Secretary Robert McDonald warned the lawmakers that the GOP's \$77 billion bill funding the department and military construction projects in fiscal 2016 falls short of the resources needed to provide health and other services to the nation's veterans.

Relaying McDonald's message, Rep. Xavier Becerra (Calif.), chairman of the Democratic Caucus, said the GOP's bill would scale back health benefits for roughly 70,000 veterans, while also denying funds for medical research, education and veterans' cemeteries.

"The secretary came and sent a very strong message, something we rarely hear: 'Please don't let this funding bill become law, if you care about our veterans. We must do better for them,'" Becerra said.

Passed with bipartisan support by the House Appropriations Committee last week, the bill provides a 5.6 percent increase for the VA over 2015 levels, but falls more than \$1 billion shy of the figure President Obama had included in his 2016 budget request.

Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) hailed the measure as "a balanced, thorough bill that will help improve the quality of life ... [and] address the current and future needs of our veterans."

The Democratic leaders see it differently, accusing the Republicans of adhering to spending levels dictated by the "incoherent" sequester law at the expense of veterans.

"We should not use the excuse — anyone in Congress — that sequester made you do this," Becerra said. "If we divest in the Veterans Administration for something as incoherent as a bad law ... then we're doing injustice and disservice to our veterans."

Scheduled for a floor vote Wednesday evening, the VA funding bill is expected to pass with overwhelming Republican support.

But the White House on Tuesday issued a statement threatening to veto the measure, saying it “fails” to fund building upgrades on military bases and expansions to medical facilities used by veterans.

The staunch opposition from leading Democrats suggests the president's House allies would be able to sustain a veto if GOP leaders passed the bill and attempted to override the president.